



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,612	03/28/2001	Hideki Kobayashi	205266US2SRD	1753

22850 7590 01/12/2006

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

TARAE, CATHERINE MICHELLE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3623

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/818,612

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, HIDEKI

Examiner

C. Michelle Tarae

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-12, 16, 17 and 19-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4, 8-12, 16, 17 and 19-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/22/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Final Office Action in response to the communications received on October 12 and 24, 2005. Claims 1-4, 8-12, 16, 17 and 19-25 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

The October 12, 2005 Amendment canceled claims 5-7, 13-15 and 18 and added new claims 26-37.

The October 24, 2005 Amendment amended claim 34.

Claims 26-37 are being examined for the first time and are currently rejected in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed November 22, 2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Examiner also notes that the foreign references have not been provided with an English translation or an English abstract.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's amendment to claim 34 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 26-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jin et al. (U.S. 6,434,438).

As per claim 26, Jin et al. discloses a method for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

setting a threshold value concerning reuse of parts with respect to cost and environment (col. 12, line 65-col. 13, line 10; col. 14, lines 3-15 and 52-62; Figures 3, 6-8 and 12; The system conducts an assemblability and recyclability evaluation that takes into consideration cost and environment. The evaluation computes scores based on various criteria including cost and environment factors. The evaluation uses an ideal score, or a threshold.);

reading cost of parts and environment load information from a database (col. 20, lines 9-20 and 55-60; col. 21, lines 56-66; Figures 14 and 16; The system uses a parts database and an evaluation criteria database.);

displaying parts on a map displayed on a display device and divided into a plurality of domains based on the threshold (col. 18, lines 21-49; Figures 11 and 12);

selecting reuse candidate parts from the displayed parts with reference to the displayed map (col. 18, lines 21-49; Figures 11 and 12);

calculating a useful life based condition formula for determining that parts are possible to reuse only in the case where a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in a reuse source product i remains more than a use period of a reuse destination product i' even if the use period of the reuse source product i is elapsed (col. 18, lines 10-20; The system uses an evaluation score formula for calculating the reusefulness of parts.);

determining whether the useful life based condition formula is satisfied and determining possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the useful life based condition formula is satisfied (col. 18, lines 10-49; col. 20, lines 46-60; The formula computes a score that is used to determine whether a part satisfies the evaluation criteria. When a part satisfies the criteria (i.e., is given a score meeting a certain threshold), then it is deemed as a part for possible reuse.).

As per claim 27, Jin et al. discloses the method according to claim 26, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse should be actively examined, a domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined (col. 18, lines 21-49; Figures 11 and 12).

As per claim 28, Jin et al. discloses the method according to claim 26, further comprising:

calculating a worth life based condition formula for determining that worth of parts j satisfying the useful life based condition formula continues even if time lag until production of reuse destination product i' is started, the production period of reuse source product i and the use period of reuse destination product i' are considered (col. 2, lines 23-34; col. 14, lines 60-62; Figure 1; The system uses an assemblability and reverse-assemblability evaluation that takes into consideration the finished target product from the parts so that the finished target product satisfies a "long life design." The evaluation continues throughout the life cycles of the reuse parts as well as the target products.).

As per claim 29, Jin et al. discloses the method according to claim 28, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse should be actively examined, a domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined (col. 18, lines 21-49; Figures 11 and 12).

Claims 30-37 recite substantially similar limitations as claims 26-29 above. Therefore, claims 30-37 are rejected on the same basis as claims 26-29 above.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new grounds of rejections.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Michelle Tarae (formerly, C. Michelle Colon) whose telephone number is 571-272-6727. The examiner can normally be reached Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz, can be reached at 571-272-6729.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

Art Unit: 3623

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

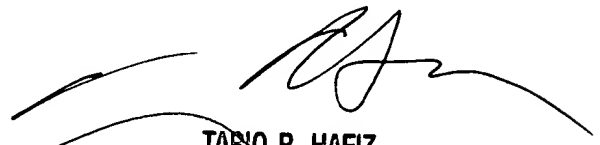
Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



cmt

January 5, 2006


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600